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This fall I will be leaving for my Peace Corps service in the Dominican Republic. Over the past year I have been taking coursework towards my Master's in Environmental Engineering with a concentration on Sustainable Engineering in Developing Countries. What I have learned in these courses will be used to implement various water and sanitation projects in the Dominican Republic over the next two years. Upon finishing my service in the Peace Corps I plan to continue to work with NGOs on sustainable development work.

Doing research at UNESCO-IHE will be an excellent learning experience and compliment to the knowledge that I gain in the Peace Corps. During my service in the Peace Corps my work and research will not be very technical. I will mainly be implementing simple, proven technologies. These are the types of technologies that are studied intensively at UNESCO-IHE before they become the simple technological interventions used in developing countries. It is important that I experience the entire field of sustainable engineering from coursework to laboratory research to implementation. A summer of research at UNESCO-IHE will help me to attain that goal so that I can be more effective as both a Peace Corps volunteer and a professional in the sustainable development field.

One of the keys to successfully implementing projects during the Peace Corps will also be gathering the knowledge and funding necessary to complete each project. There is a lot of information and money available for development work if you know where to find it. UNESCO-IHE will be an excellent place to begin making contacts with researchers and organizations that could be helpful to me when I am in the Dominican Republic and in my future work, following my service.

Finally, having done research at UNESCO-IHE will be a very valuable experience on my resume when it comes time to find a job. Between research at UNESCO-IHE and a Peace Corps Master's International Degree, I will have a strong resume for working in sustainable development. I will also have a better idea of what each sector of the field entails and I will be able to direct my job search in a more specific direction.